

Magistrates of the country informing them about the National Trust.

3. Guardianship issue was discussed and incorporated in the draft regulations of the Trust, which have been formulated.
4. Rs. 6000/- per annum has been decided to be given to each of local level committee for miscellaneous expenditure.
5. Awareness brochure has been finalized.

Disabled Allowance to Handicapped Persons

4061. DR. C. NARYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in western countries disabled allowance is paid to handicapped persons under Social Security Act;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to extend similar benefit to the handicapped at least in rural areas in our country; and
- (c) if not, whether Government would consider the feasibility of introducing such a measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Government has already enacted a legislation *i.e.* Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. The Act is in force since 7.2.1996 and provides *inter-alia* that the appropriate Governments shall, within the limits of their economic capacity and development, shall by notification, frame a scheme for payment of an unemployment allowance to persons with disabilities registered with the Special Employment Exchange for more than two years and who could not be placed in any gainful occupation. Some States/Union Territories are implementing Schemes, including those for providing unemployment allowance and disability pension.